

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having an even surface over a substrate having an even surface; and

a connecting step for simultaneously bringing a top of each barrier rib down into contact with the bonding agent layer, while regulating a distance between the upper surface of the bonding agent layer and the barrier ribs, in such a manner that relative positions of the bonding agent and the barrier ribs are altered horizontally along a length of the barrier ribs, with the barrier rib tops in contact with the bonding agent.

2. (Previously Presented) A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having an even surface so as to embed a position regulating member that regulates positions of the barrier ribs within the layer, the position regulating member being arranged on a substrate having an even surface; and

a connecting step for bringing a top of each barrier rib down into contact with the position regulating member to apply the bonding agent simultaneously to the tops of all of the barrier ribs while regulating a distance between the upper surface of the bonding agent layer and the barrier ribs.

3. (Previously Presented) A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having a curved surface so as to embed a position regulating member that regulates positions of the barrier ribs within the layer, the position regulating member being arranged on a substrate having a curved surface; and

a connecting step for bringing a part of each barrier rib top down into contact with the position regulating member and then to move the position regulating member along a length of the barrier ribs to apply the bonding agent to the tops of all of the barrier ribs while regulating a distance between the upper surface of the bonding agent layer and the barrier ribs.

4. (Previously Presented) A display panel manufacturing method, comprising an application process for applying a bonding agent to a plurality of barrier ribs formed on at least one of a pair of substrates, and a connection process for arranging the pair of substrates in opposition and connecting the pair of substrates together via the bonding agent that has been applied to the barrier ribs, wherein the application process includes:

a bonding agent layer forming step for forming a layer of a paste-like bonding agent having an even surface over a substrate having an even surface: and

a connecting step for momentarily bringing one part of each barrier rib top into contact with the bonding agent layer, and then altering the relative positions of the barrier ribs and the bonding agent layer while maintaining a distance between the barrier ribs and the bonding agent layer such that the bonding agent is applied to all the barrier rib tops as a result of surface tension.

5.- 6. (Cancelled) .

7. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the regulating means is formed from interwoven wire rods.

13. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the regulating means is indentations and protrusions formed on a surface of a flat substrate.

14. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the position regulating member is a plurality of half-cylinders, and the barrier rib tops are brought into contact with the curved surface of the half-cylinders.

15. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 1, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

16-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

44-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the relative positions of the bonding agent and the barrier ribs are altered with the barrier rib tops in contact with the bonding agent.

61. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

62. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

63. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 4, wherein the bonding agent applying process is repeated a plurality of times.

64. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the regulating means is formed from interwoven wire rods.

65. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the regulating means is indentations and protrusions formed on a surface of a flat substrate.

66. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the position regulating member is a plurality of half-cylinders, and the barrier rib tops are brought into contact with the curved surface of the half-cylinders.

67. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

68. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

69. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 4, further including a process for leveling the barrier ribs across almost the entire surface of the substrate so that all the barrier rib tops are at approximately the same height.

70. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 2, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

71. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 3, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

72. (Previously Presented) The display panel manufacturing method of Claim 4, wherein the bonding agent is arranged on the barrier ribs using a compound including a substance which is more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.